

## MRS. O'GRADY TELLS HOW SHE WAS HAMPERED IN HER POLICE WORK

(Continued From First Page)

only stayed because they persuaded me to reconsider."

There were petty annoyances during the year that followed—from 1918 to 1919—and she was not given full credit for her work in the 1919 police report. But it was on New Year's Day, 1920, that matters reached a climax through the publication of a story already told in *The Evening World*—the story of the alleged interference by Enright's secretary at that time in the case of the attempted arrest of a man in an apartment near Riverside Drive on charges of attacking a young girl. According to the printed account, Mrs. O'Grady complained to Mayor Hylan, and later the secretary resigned from the department.

ENRIGHT'S KICK BECAUSE SHE WROTE TO WORLD.

"I never even knew the story was printed until a friend called me up and told me about it," said Mrs. O'Grady, "and wherever the reporter got the information it was not from me. Oh, yes, it was a true story! But since the publication Commissioner Enright has completely ignored me in the conducting of my own department."

"Just before New Year's Day it had been decided to let one of two clerks in my office go. Naturally, I was to choose between them. I made my selection—and came into my office on Jan. 2, the day after the publication of the story, to find at work the clerk I had decided to drop, while the clerk I wanted to keep was gone."

"The newspapers always have been fair to me. And just because I wasn't panned, like some other department officers, the Commissioner has taken the ground that I was 'keeping next'

to the papers. Last spring, when the department was being panned, I wrote a letter to *The World*, they sent some one up to see me and I told of the things my department was doing. The next time I saw the Commissioner he said to me, 'You know what'll happen to you!'

"He can't seem to understand a person who goes honestly through life, not stepping on anybody's toes, not caring for anybody. I wouldn't dream of helping myself out by criticizing other members of the department. The Commissioner sent me an order once, which stated that I was not supposed to comment on the policy of the department. I wrote back that, as I did not know the policy, outside my own office, naturally I couldn't comment on it."

"RUBBER STAMP" WOULD HAVE HAD NO TROUBLE.

"If I had been willing to sit down and sign papers blindly I'd be all right. But my motto is life is all ways been, 'Right thou feelest, rush to do.' I rushed to do too much, I worked too hard to suit them. And I never have been a rubber stamp."

"Never since I have been in the department has Commissioner Enright come into my office to see what I was doing. Three times my offices have been moved, and I wasn't even told of it in advance. When I went to see the Commissioner about any matter I had to stand in his door like a criminal; he never asked me to sit down. I never was asked to attend the councils except those held just after my exposure of the moving picture situation, although as a Deputy Commissioner I belonged in them."

"Any day for months I would come into my office and find that one or more of the twenty-two women connected with my department had been sent to some outlying station as a relief. I never was even informed of such a detail in advance; the order was given over my head."

"I arranged my schedule of vacation assignments for last summer; they were shifted around completely from overhead. I had nothing to say about it."

"I have had to use an old, broken-

down car—it actually broke down on the street while I was in it. I asked the Commissioner for a new one and was told I couldn't have it. The other deputies have fine cars—they are said to be attached to the Detective Bureau, but they're really the deputies' cars."

OBJECTED TO PUBLIC TALKS TO GIRLS AND MOTHERS.

"I have had to ask permission to accept invitations to speak at meetings. Even when I wrote and told the Commissioner that I was being asked repeatedly to give warnings to girls in the public and parochial schools, and asked him if I might not be permitted always to accede to these requests—his answer was, 'Each case must be submitted to me separately.'"

"When I made application for four days' leave of absence last summer on account of illness—and I had a doctor's certificate—Commissioner Enright stamped it, 'Absence without pay.' Even the subordinates in my department had absence with pay when they were ill, yet when I called attention to this an order was issued that they should refund to the department the money so received more than a year previously. I protested that outrageous order, of course."

"I tried to ignore these things, to pretend I did not notice them. But the morale of my department was completely broken—how could it not? I have been treated shamefully and horribly."

Then Mrs. O'Grady told the story of what she called "the last straw." One "straw" has been described pretty fully—the arrival in her office yesterday morning of Mrs. Mary Hamilton of the Bureau of Missing Persons, with the pump announced that the Commissioner had told her to take "any two policemen you want" to help with the drive for the Police Hospital Fund. Mayor Hylan declared in a published letter he would permit no uniformed men to be diverted from duty for work for the Police Hospital.

"I want Mrs. Sullivan and Mrs. McCarthy," Mrs. Hamilton remarked, sweetly.

POLICEWOMEN WORKING ON POLICE HOSPITAL DRIVE.

"She herself is working for the drive," Mrs. O'Grady told me, "and yet people come to me almost every day with cases which women attached to the Bureau of Missing Persons ought to handle—and do not. The four women on this bureau and the two attached to the Vice Squad were not under my jurisdiction, though they should have been."

"A man came into my office a month ago and told me that his wife

was missing and had left him with five children. No woman was sent out on this case; one should have been. Another man told me that his sister had been missing three months. I went to the bureau to investigate and found no woman had been detailed—as she should have been—to this case. I inquired, 'Why not?'

"We only have four women," was the answer, "and one is sick, one on vacation and one on the hospital drive."

Then the blue eyes blazed as they had not done in all the time she had been speaking of her own wrongs. "Pollockmen," she said, "should NEVER be in drive—not even for Liberty bonds. For they have power, and when they ask people for money for any object some will always give because they are afraid to do otherwise. The New York police are fine fellows—there ought to be some one to do the square thing by every one of them. But our men have been made spectacles, by all this asking for contributions. They hate it. They should be policemen pure and simple, not beggars."

"And see how it works out on another side. One of my men told me that when he went to make an arrest in a moving picture house the other day, the man said, 'Look here, now, I can show you a receipt for my contribution to the Police Hospital fund!'"

And speaking of movies led to the second of the "straws" that broke Mrs. O'Grady's back—or, rather, made her "break" herself. If this little incident were put on the screen, an appropriate title would be, "Is Cohen going to run the Police Department?"

"Acting Capt. Ammon," related Mrs. O'Grady, "was called this morning to Commissioner Enright's office. There, he told me, sitting beside the Commissioner, were two movie men."

"Said the Commissioner, 'You tell Mrs. O'Grady that her women must not be so strenuous about making arrests in the moving picture houses. If they find anything very flagrant let them tell the Captain of the precinct. He'll speak to Mr. Cohen, here, about it, and Mr. Cohen will see that the matter is corrected.'"

"Capt. Ammon," Mrs. O'Grady continued, "suggested that Mr. Cohen and his friend be brought to my office. To this suggestion Commissioner Enright made no reply. So Capt. Ammon brought me the message, and I said to Capt. Ammon: 'Is Cohen going to run the Police Department?'"

"The absurdity of it!" she exclaimed indignantly. "If the law is being violated every minute, tell the Captain of the precinct, and let him talk to Cohen! And we've always been

on the side of leniency in making arrests in the moving picture houses, not for the sake of the men that run them, but for the sake of the children. 'Nevertheless, after that horrible New Catherine Theatre fire-panic, I called a meeting of the seventy men and twenty-two women in my department. It isn't their job to watch the motion picture houses, any more than it's the job of any other policeman on duty. But I said to my people, 'I don't feel guiltless of this awful thing. If we'd all been doing our level best it would not have happened.' So, since then, they have made a special effort to see that the law against admitting minors without an older person should be enforced."

"But that was the end," she concluded, folding her pretty, plump hands in a weary little gesture. "Twice in one morning the Commissioner had gone into my department over my head and given orders to me through my subordinates. I simply couldn't stand it any longer. I walked into his office and said, 'Here's my badge. I'm through with the Police Department.'"

"And what did he say?" I asked. "He said, 'What?'—and I didn't wait to hear him say anything else," she answered.

She leaned forward a bit from where she sat beside the reading table in the little cozy corner between the living room and dining room of her apartment.

"I love my work," she said earnestly. "I'm able to do it, I long to do it. I practically created my department, and I've watched over everything myself. There haven't been any comebacks or mistakes. Juvenile delinquency has decreased steadily since I was made Deputy Commissioner. 'Thousands and thousands of cases we have kept out of court altogether, for our work is protection and prevention, rather than punishment, unless that is absolutely necessary. Only last summer we rescued 235 girls at Coney, who were wayward or in bad company."

"From all over the world—from Athens, from France, from the Isle of Guernsey—people write to me and send me cases. I work with the Children's Society, the Society for the Suppression of Vice, the Y. W. C. A., and I've had such splendid co-operation from everybody. I'm on leave of absence from the Probation Department and I suppose I can go back there if I wish. But I didn't want to give up my work as Commissioner, for I know how much it is needed."

"My life has been one continuous struggle for months. Night after night I would come home and tell my daughters, 'I'm going to give it up. I'm not going back.' They have urged me to stop. But I've tried to fight it out. I can't, any longer, for I am so hampered that I cannot do what I should do. In such circumstances, no woman could accomplish anything."

"I have never seen any graft in the department since I was there, and I know nobody has ever dared to offer me any money. As to the crime wave, so-called, I think that is largely due to after-the-war conditions, although I do believe there should be a school for detectives, and that no detective should be sent out to arrest a man unless he is keen and sharp and well trained. There is vast room for improvement here. 'Not all the Police Department officials are treated as the Commissioner has treated me. He has his friends!'

But he's the boss—he's the boss, and the rest are the puppets." "Why didn't you appeal to Mayor Hylan?" I asked. "Oh, that's another story," she replied, wearily. "It is a story she will not tell, and the first story seemed to be done. So I rose to say goodby."

"Would you return to the department if you were invited to do so?" I put the last question. "When a man of honor is at the head of the department I'll return!" she said.

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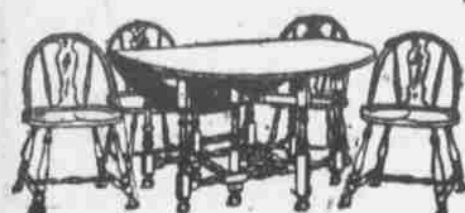
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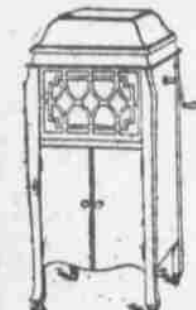
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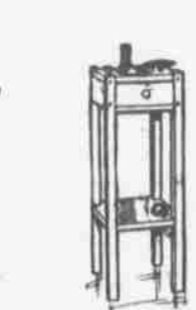
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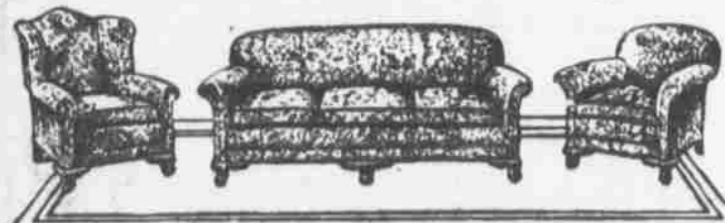
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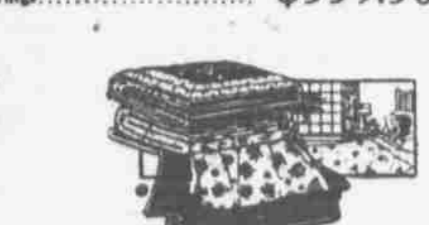
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